



30,000 strong Census workforce prepare for the big campaign, Jul 2001

MEDIA RELEASE

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With a month to go before the Census, to be held on Tuesday 7 August, the final stages of preparation are in full swing for the Australian Bureau of Statistics' (ABS) 30,000-strong field workforce.

Training of Census Collectors, who will distribute and collect census forms to over seven million households throughout Australia, will commence this month. Census supervisory staff, called Group Leaders, will conduct the training sessions for Census Collectors at a myriad of locations throughout Australia.

Census Collectors will be delivering forms from Saturday 28 July and will be collecting the forms from 8 August. All Census Collectors will wear an official identification badge which includes a photograph and will carry a large yellow Census bag for additional easy identification.

The Census Collectors will be trained to assist and advise householders on filling in census forms. It should take 20-30 minutes to complete the questions on the census form.

The training sessions will also cover all aspects of the 2001 Census operations, including the objectives of the Census, quality control, the Census Time Capsule Project and reinforce the absolute necessity for adherence to privacy and confidentiality.

The 2001 Census, the biggest statistical collection undertaken by the Australian Bureau of Statistics, will involve all people in Australia, including overseas visitors and tourists.

The Census is a snapshot of the nation to gain information vital for the planning and development of Australia. A new public information website is available at www.abs.gov.au/census.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES FOR THE MEDIA:

Comprehensive file footage vision has been supplied to networks; extra copies are available on request. A CD-ROM of high resolution census images is also available on request. Visit **www.abs.gov.au/census/media** for media releases and other media material: articles, fact sheets, images and story angles. ABS census public affairs staff, both at the National Census Communications Unit in Canberra and in all States and Territories, will help wherever, whenever we can.

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